

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 18, 1998      LB 1063

on your amendment.

SENATOR WESELY:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. Senator Maurstad, let me...let me follow up because this is not a change to the degree that you just indicated. If you look at the green handout, you'll see who was eligible and you'll see on it the different qualifications it takes and among them is if you've been offered comparable coverage at a higher premium within the last six months. So we currently have in place that if you get health insurance but it's more expensive than what you can get through CHIP, you can get on the CHIP program. Where we don't allow it is under COBRA, so this is actually bringing us in more uniformity with what we currently have with coverage, so it isn't a break that's that unusual. What is a break is giving the children a lower rate and the reason we did it is because families came in and said it's just breaking them right now to provide the cost of coverage for their kids and it ties in to what the bill is that we have before us in the sense that trying to expand ability of children to get health care. These are kids that don't...do not qualify for Medicaid. They have a special need that brings them under the CHIP program, a preexisting condition, and as a result can be very expensive to get health insurance, and this is an attempt to help them get health insurance. Again, that's what we're trying to do, is to recognize that particular problems have come up in the CHIP program; and as the person who carried the bill ten years ago, I can tell you that this is just an evolution of it that is not a break from where we were in the past but an attempt to take one step forward to address some concerns that have been raised. And, again, there is no fiscal impact that can be identified of any magnitude and I'd ask for your support for the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:      You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Wesely amendment to LB 1063. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? We're voting on the Wesely amendment to LB 1063. Please record.

CLERK:      25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.